Olena Pelekhata [ID]

Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
olena.pelekhata@gmail.com

Basic Concepts, Problems and Developmental Trends of Modern Sociolinguistics Contained in "Sotsiolinhvistychnyĭ Kompendium (The Sociolinguistic Compendium)", edited by Helena Krasowska, Oleksiy Sukhomlynov, and Petro Sygeda (Kyiv: Talkom, 2020. pp. 336)

Abstract

This review presents the work of an international team of researchers devoted to a thorough description of the problems of modern sociolinguistics. The developmental stages and basic concepts of sociolinguistics are analysed, and the trends and methods of modern sociolinguistic researches are presented. The mutual influences of language and society are demonstrated and the legal status of the state language in Ukraine is analysed.

Keywords: sociolinguistics; compendium; basic concepts of sociolinguistics; methods and trends of sociolinguistic research; state language

The Sociolinguistic Compendium (Krasovsʹka et al., 2020), prepared by a writing team consisting of Helena Krasowska, Oleksiy Sukhomlynov, and Petro Sygeda,[1] was published in 2020 with the support of the Representation of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kyiv. The publication is devoted to studying the role of language in Ukrainian society and is the result of longstanding cooperation between international experts from the Polish Academy of Sciences — Helena Krasowska (Professor of the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Academy of Sciences) and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Prof. Oleksiy Sukhomlynov and Prof. Petro Sygeda).

The Sociolinguistic Compendium is written for the use of future sociologists and philologists, as well as all stakeholders in modern sociolinguistics — a science that is developing at the intersection of linguistics, social psychology and ethnography. The authors of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* took as a basis the fundamental work of V. Belikov and L. Krysin, *Sociolinguistics* (Belikov & Krysin, 2001), and drew on the achievements of Ukrainian and Polish researchers, in particular Natalia Shumarova's book *Fundamentals of Sociolinguistics* (Shumarova, 2004), Helena Krasowska's monograph *Polish Highlanders in Carpathian Bukovina* (Krasowska, 2006),

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[1] The task of writing the book was divided as follows: Petro Sygeda was responsible for the preparation of the entire book, and wrote 70% of the text; Oleksiy Suchomłynow prepared the last chapter of the book and edited the entire book, 20%; Helena Krasowska, supplemented and commented on the sociolinguistic terms based on Polish literature on the subject, 10%. Polish literature on the subject was compiled with the indication of the relevant literature, in accordance with the publishing requirements. Copyright for writing part of the book is reserved by the authors.

and a textbook on sociolinguistics by L. Antoshkina, H. Krasowska, P. Sygeda and O. Sukhomlynov (Antoshkina et al., 2007).

It should be noted that the translation of all quotations from Russian, English and Polish into Ukrainian, as well as from Polish into Russian, was performed by the writing team. However, the authors themselves note that some Russian-language quotations were left without translation in order to preserve their specific identity, which served as a good linguistic illustration of sociolinguistic phenomena.

The theoretical and practical significance of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* is determined by the uniqueness of its goal, which is to provide essays on sociolinguistics to future philologists, sociologists, historians, political scientists and all those interested in the increasingly important role of language in 21st century Ukraine. These essays are not only a synthesis of similar studies conducted by Eastern European scholars, but are also a generalization of the achievements of Western Slavic scholars. There is no similar work, in either Ukrainian or Polish linguistics, in which the implantation of the 'social' in the functioning of the language is presented in such detail based on the material of the state language.

The Sociolinguistic Compendium (Krasovs'ka et al., 2020) opens with a preface (pp. 6–11) which describes the historical origins and developmental stages of sociolinguistics as a science. The authors establish the developmental stages of Soviet sociolinguistics and analyse the formation of Ukrainian sociolinguistics. The preface also covers issues pertaining to collective written work and the prerequisites for its creation. Finally, the preface outlines the structure of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium*, which examines such issues as the status and object of sociolinguistics, the basic concepts, problems, trends and methods of sociolinguistic research, and practical sociolinguistics.

The first chapter (pp. 11–26) of the book, "Sociolinguistics as a science", contains 3 essays: "What does sociolinguistics study?", "Origins of sociolinguistics" and "The status and object of sociolinguistics".

The second chapter (pp. 27–129), "Basic concepts of sociolinguistics", is devoted to 17 basic concepts in the field of sociolinguistic research, among which are issues of linguistic community and language situation, language code, interference, the phenomenon of Surzhyk (mixed sociolects of Ukrainian and Russian), areas of language use, communicative situation and competence, language norms and variability, literary language, dialect, sociolect, slang, colloquialism, etc.

Especially valuable is the detailed analysis of the current (and highly relevant) language situation in Ukraine. On the controversy between the writing team and Russian sociolinguists, the authors state, "Ukrainian sociolinguists and linguists are probably better acquainted than Russian linguists and sociolinguists with what is going on in their own homes: they are well acquainted with the language situation in Ukraine before the collapse of the USSR, in the 1990s, and currently. Their attitude to this issue is more rigorous and more sober." (Krasovs'ka et al., 2020, p.30).

Also of interest and value for Ukrainian readers is the scientific discussion of well-known Ukrainian linguists presented in the second chapter on the concept of "native language" and "functionally first language", the corresponding terms in Polish linguistics are also given (pp. 35–43). Of great practical importance, especially for the formation of state language policy, is an essay in which the international team of authors analyses in detail the achievements of world sociolinguistics on bilingualism, multilingualism, and diglossia (pp. 43–58). Another valuable essay is on the subject of code switching: the authors give not only Ukrainian examples of code switching (p. 64) (Shumarova, 2004), but also examples of code switching in Polish, Romanian, and Russian (pp. 67–68) (Krasowska, 2006).

The third chapter (pp. 130–142), "Problems of sociolinguistics", consists of 3 essays which analyse issues related to language proficiency and outline language proficiency levels.

The fourth chapter (pp. 143–167), "Directions of sociolinguistic research", contains 7 essays. The issues covered include synchronous and diachronic sociolinguistics, macro- and microsociolinguistics, and applied, theoretical and experimental sociolinguistics. The distinction between the concepts of "sociolinguistics" and "sociology of language" (pp. 161–163) is also very clearly defined, which is important for future philologists and sociologists.

The fifth chapter (pp. 168–243), "Sociolinguistic methods", is one of the most valuable sections of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium*, especially for researchers and students, because it contributes to the formation of scientific hypotheses by the reader. The section consists of an excellent analysis of 12 sociolinguistic research methods: the principles of informant selection, interviews, questionnaires, testing, mass research, data processing and publication, and areal, biographical, longitudinal, reconstructive and comparative analysis. Of particular practical importance for researchers is the essay "Principles of informant selection" (pp. 170–182) and "Sociolinguistic methods in practice" (pp. 239–243).

The sixth chapter (pp. 244–266), "The social aspect of language communication", focuses on language communication and types of regulations in a socially heterogeneous environment, social components in the semantic structure of the word, and social limitations in syntagmatic.

The seventh chapter (pp. 267–305), "Language and society", contains 7 essays which are not only highly relevant for Ukrainian readers, but also demonstrate the important state-building function of language. The writing team carefully analyses the problem of "Functions of language" (pp. 267–279), which can be used as separate lecture material. The essay "The legal status of the state language in Ukraine" (pp. 301–305) allows the reader to conclude that language is a national security factor in Ukraine.

Finally, it is worthwhile to read the annexes, which clarify the entry into force of the law "On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language" (pp. 307–316).

There are some critical remarks which may be made about *The Sociolinguistic Compendium*, but they do not affect the significance of the work. The main drawback is the lack of numbering of sections and paragraphs (pp. 4–5). This makes the work difficult to read, especially if we take into consideration that the voluminous and important chapter "Basic concepts of sociolinguistics" (pp. 27–129) has 17 essays, and the section "Sociolinguistic methods" (pp. 168–243) contains 13 essays.

In a situation in which the Russian language in Ukraine (especially in the west) is not widely studied in schools and universities, some isolated examples borrowed by the writing team from the textbook of V. Belikov V. and L. Krysin can be considered unsuccessful. In the essay "What does sociolinguistics study?" (pp. 11–15), an example is given about the functioning of the word "mining" only in the plural used in the lexicon of mine workers. However, Ukrainian-speaking young people do not have such subtleties of grammar, as there is information on the Internet (*Sklonenie slova "Dobycha"*, n.d.) about the existence of the plural form without specifying the "language of professional use".

In the essay "Language Community" (pp. 27–30), it would have been desirable to give the example of Ukrainian migrant families in Canada and the USA, who use several languages for communication at home. Well known are the cases in which grandparents communicate with each other in Ukrainian, their grandchildren only use English, and the middle generation communicates in both Ukrainian and English.

It should be noted that the phenomenon of trilingualism, which was considered in Ukrainian linguistics in 1966 for the first time (Zhluktenko, 1966, pp. 38–39) is still relevant today (Krasowska, 2020; Levchuk, 2019). Therefore, the authors of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* should have paid attention to the description of trilingualism (in Ukrainian) in more detail.

It would also have been desirable for the authors to focus on the functioning of Surzhyk in the Ukrainian socio–cultural space in more detail. The very difficult matter of Surzhyk in the national language situation in Ukraine requires more attention. The authors could have analysed the second edition of the monograph by L. Masenko, who calls the functioning of Surzhyk in mass consciousness, political discourse, social networks and modern fiction in Ukraine a "socio–cultural catastrophe" (Masenko, 2019). The authors of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* could also have analysed the review of the monograph authored by Pawel Levchuk, who characterizes the book *Surzhyk: Mizh Movoiu i Vazykom* as "the first vast paper on the phenomenon of the Ukrainian–Russian linguistic contacts" (Levchuk, 2020, p. 1).

Finally, we would like to propose that the authors of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* consider the spread of Ukrainian in Polish advertising, as this topic is already beginning to be researched by Polish linguists (Levchuk, 2021; Pawłowski, 2019).

The critical remarks and suggestions presented above in no way diminish the scientific significance of *The Sociolinguistic Compendium*, authored by Helena Krasowska, Oleksiy Sukhomlynov, and Petro Sygeda. The work represents a worthy result of the longstanding scientific research by the Ukrainian–Polish team in the field of sociolinguistics. But I believe that *The Sociolinguistic Compendium* cannot represent an important stage in the development of European sociolinguistics and will not lead to a strong growth of interest in sociolinguistic research among Ukrainian students during Russia–Ukraine war.

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